MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

ABRAHAM DOWDNEY.

FEBRUARY 8, 1887

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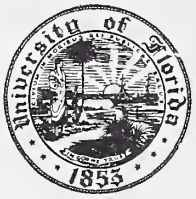

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

ABRAHAM DOWDNEY

(A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW YORK).

DELIVERED IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE SENATE,

FORTY-NINTH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1887.

JOINT RESOLUTION providing for printing eulogies delivered in Congress upon the late Abraham Dowdney, John Arnot, jr., Lewis Beach, William T. Price, William H. Cole, and Austin F. Pike.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of Ameriea in Congress assembled, That there be printed, of the eulogies delivered in Congress upon the late Abraham Dowdney, John Arnot, jr., and Lewis Beach, late Representatives in the Forty-ninth Congress from the State of New York, and William T. Price, late a Representative from the State of Wisconsin, and William H. Cole, late a Representative from the State of Maryland, twelve thousand five hundred copies each, of which three thousand copies of each shall be for the use of the Senate and nine thousand five hundred each for the use of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 2. That there be also printed of the eulogies delivered in Congress upon the late Austin F. Pike, a Senator from New Hampshire, twelve thousand copies, of which four thousand copies shall be for the use of the Senate and eight thousand copies for the use of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed to have printed portraits of the said Abraham Dowdney, John Arnot, jr., Lewis Beach, William T. Price, William H. Cole, and Anstin F. Pike, to accompany said eulogies, and for the purpose of engraving and printing said portraits the sum of three thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Approved, March 3, 1887.

ANNOUNCEMENT

OF THE

DEATH OF ABRAHAM DOWDNEY.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

December 10, 1886.

Mr. TIMOTHY J. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, it is with sorrow and regret I have to announce to this House the death of one of its members, Hon. ABRAHAM DOWDNEY, one of my associates in the representation of the city of New York. As he was entering his house last evening he was stricken with apoplexy, and died at 8 o'clock this morning. I offer the resolution which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows :

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound regret the announcement of the death of Hon. ABRAHAM DOWDNEY, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved by the House of Representatives (*the Senate concurring*), That a select joint committee, consisting of seven members of the House and three members of the Senate, be appointed to attend the funeral, and the necessary expenses attending the execution of this order be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for properly carrying out the provisions of this resolution.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate the foregoing resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, As a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, that the House do now adjourn.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to, and, in accordance therewith, the House adjourned.

December 11, 1886.

The Speaker announced, under the resolution of the House, the following as the committee to attend the funeral of Hon. ABRAHAM DOWDNEY: Mr. TIMOTHY J. CAMPBELL, Mr. VIELE, Mr. MERRIMAN, and Mr. MULLER, of the city of New YORK, Mr. O'NEILL, of Missouri, Mr. BRADY, and Mr. SCRANTON.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

February 8, 1887.

Mr. TIMOTHY J. CAMPBELL. I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That in the death of Hon. ABRAHAM DOWDNEY, late a Representative of the Twelfth Congressional district of the State of New York, that district and State have lost an able, conscientious, and faithful servant and the country a safe, intelligent, and prudent legislator and a public-spirited and patriotic citizen.

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House be directed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect the House, at the conclusion of these ceremonies, do adjourn.

ADDRESSES

ON THE

DEATH OF ABRAHAM DOWDNEY,

DELIVERED IN THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

Address of Mr. TIMOTHY J. CAMPBELL, of New York.

Mr. SPEAKER: The solemn duty of delivering a eulogy on the memory of a beloved friend, the Hon. ABRAHAM DOWDNEY, is assigned me this evening, an office which I fear I cannot fulfill with full credit to the name of the deceased.

In my humble way, I rise in my place to pay such tribute as I am able to the character of him whom I esteemed in life and whose name I revere in death.

Since the assembling of the second session of the Forty-ninth Congress the Messenger has called our fellow-member of the Twelfth district of New York from the bosom of his family. Mr. ABRAHAM DOWDNEY, whose career will be the subject of my brief remarks, was stricken down without warning or apprehension, on the evening of December 10, while entering the house of his sister, in New York city. His death, though very sudden, found him not unprepared. He was identified with the Catholic Church, and devoted himself to his religious duties with characteristic earnestness and zealous devotion. It was only on the day previous to

his death that he bade me good-bye on the floor of this House, feeling in good health and cheer, and started for his home to attend to private matters needing his attention there.

The next morning I was apprised by telegram of his death. Thus "in the midst of life we are in death," and none of us upon our brief pilgrimage here below can lift the veil which closes out the "unknown realm" where the king and the serf meet upon an equal basis; from whence the Reaper cometh with his scythe to cut down his weeds and his flowers.

But one fact we all know; our hour must come, do what we may to ward off the mysterious touch which stills forever all joys, all sorrows, all strifes, all conflicts, all hopes, and all earthly aspirations. Amid this stern truth we realize a nameless comfort in the thought that everything passes away—the stars, the dust, and the granite rocks; but, as Bulwer beautifully expresses it,

> To rise upon some fairer shore,
> And, bright in heaven's jeweled crown,
> To shine forever more.

Mr. ABRAHAM DOWDNEY was born in Ireland, and came to this country when quite young. After finishing his studies in the public schools of New York he apprenticed himself to a plumber, and mastered his trade at the early age of nineteen years and embarked in business for himself. Impelled by duty to espouse the cause to which he adhered, he left his home and business to face the dangers, trials, and privations of war. Assuming the responsibilities devolving upon a captain, he proved an efficient, brave, and praiseworthy officer. Always scrupulously careful of the feelings of others even at the sacrifice of his own feelings and interests, he made firm friends wherever fickle fate chanced to cast his lot, irrespective of the congeniality of clime or the people with whom he was thrown in contact.

A few years after his return from the Army Mr. DOWDNEY

was married to Miss Mary E. Crimmins, sister of John D. and Thomas E. Crimmins, the well-known contractors in New York City. She died eight years ago, leaving two interesting children. Two years later he married Miss Lellie Purcell, daughter of Dr. John Purcell, formerly of the Seventh ward, New York City. The fruit of the second marriage was four boys. The widow and all the children survive him.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and duty as the friend and associate of Mr. DOWDNEY to say he possessed the keenest sense of honor, which word, in its fullest acceptation, means the reflection of a man's own action shining like the sun in the face of all about him and from thence rebounding upon himself.

Hence it is my sacred duty to publicly proclaim the virtue of him who in life was the builder of his own name, and who, upon being taken away by relentless Death, left behind him a monument of deeds more lofty than the proudest gifts known to the books of heraldry.

In 1881 he was selected to become school trustee in the Nineteenth ward of the city of New York, which position he occupied in so satisfactory a manner as to give unanimous approval. Unsought and unsolicited he was prevailed upon to accept the nomination and election to the Forty-ninth Congress.

He was the candidate of all factions, and was selected to harmonize the conflicting elements within his party.

Molding his opinions into such shape as to give offense to no man, showing in every action the magnanimity of an expansive mind unshadowed by prejudice, guile, or malice, he attained the highest honors it was within the power of his constituents to bestow as an acknowledgment of his worth. The strife and turmoil of public life were uncon-

genial to him. His delicacy of feeling and extreme modesty suffered at every turn in conflict with selfish politicians who were more worldly wise than he, yet not more ardent in purpose. He therefore declined a renomination to the next Congress, hoping after this session to pursue the even tenor of home life in the midst of a happy family, when, suddenly, in the zenith of his manhood, God saw fit to close his career on earth.

Each man was sent into the world to do his own work; to bear his own burdens; to form his own principles; to maintain the laws of God, and respect the laws of man. Our deceased friend was not only a God-fearing man but a philanthropist. Truth is violated by falsehood, and it may be equally outraged by silence. So the highest praise that can be awarded in this case is simply to say he was an honest, upright, and just man.

Mr. DOWDNEY'S life critically reviewed leaves no trace of uncertainty in the minds of those who knew him. He was prepared to be led by the shadowy hand into the presence of the never-erring Judge.

> All that breathe
> Will share thy destiny. The gay will laugh
> When thou art gone, the solemn brood of care
> Plod on, and each one as before will chase
> His favorite phantom; yet all these shall leave
> Their mirth and their employments, and shall come
> And make their bed with thee. As the long train
> Of ages glide away, the sons of men,
> The youth in life's green spring, and he who goes
> In the full strength of years, matron and maid,
> The speechless babe, and the gray-headed man—
> Shall one by one be gathered to thy side,
> By those who in their turn shall follow them.

Address of Mr. VIELE, of New York.

Mr. SPEAKER: The announcement of the sudden death of our lamented friend and associate, ABRAHAM DOWDNEY, was received with feelings of utter incredulity ; and even now it seems almost impossible to fully realize the fact that he has passed forever from the scenes of busy life, in which he took such an active part. He was in the very prime of life, and a wide field of usefulness and honor was opened out for him in the future. He was a type of many of our worthy fellow-citizens, who, born in a foreign land, came to this country in their boyhood, and growing up under the auspices of our free institutions, have given to the home of their adoption a love and allegiance as true and loyal as if it were their birthplace.

His life was one of uninterrupted activity ; with earnest and untiring effort he trod the paths that lead through industry to competency, and yet not forgetful of his obligations as a citizen he gave a large portion of his time gratuitously to the duties of an office of the public schools. On the breaking out of the war he organized a company of soldiers, and at a large pecuniary sacrifice left his business and went into the field.

The loyalty to his country thus promptly shown was the key to his whole character, for he was loyal and true in every relation of life. Representing so far as individual possessions are concerned the wealthiest constituents in the United States, his personal feelings were nevertheless absorbed by the interests of the poor.

None among them ever appealed to him in vain. The circumstances which brought him to the House of Representatives were not of his seeking. He accepted the trust as he would perform any other duty, simply because he con-

sidered it his duty. He never sought or desired the applause of the multitude, nor did he expect to receive through popular plaudits any return for the services it might be in his power to render to his fellow-citizens. A man of innate modesty of character and demeanor, he felt much more the responsibilities in holding a public position than of any honor it might bring to him personally. All who remember him on this floor will recall his earnest attention to every subject under discussion.

His opinions were formed on a careful examination of the questions at issue, and they were generally characteristic of a mind that conscientiously weighed all the facts presented, and decided only after mature deliberation, and when his conclusions were once arrived at they were unalterable. Unobtrusive almost to diffidence, he had no false aspirations or selfish ambition, and yet no Representative possessed a warmer regard or a greater degree of confidence among his constituents than Mr. DOWDNEY had secured for himself through the sterling traits of character that belonged to him. No one could doubt this who saw the multitude that gathered in the great cathedral of the metropolis on the occasion of his obsequies.

The vast temple was filled with mourners, whose illy suppressed feelings testified to the sincerity of their sorrow. It was indeed an impressive scene. The softened rays of varied light that poured through the limned windows, the solemn requiem from the deep-toned organ, the priests in their robes of sanctity, the long procession of acolytes, the burning tapers, the incense from the golden censers, all gave testimony that the plain and unostentatious man was as much to the church as the highest and most conspicuous in the land. And that church received his remains with the deepest love and veneration, to be cherished and remem-

bered in its daily intercessions so long as prayer shall be offered to the Throne of Grace and Mercy, and so shall we, his friends and associates, keep his memory green.

His generous nature and kindly disposition can not soon be forgotten. He has gone before, but is only waiting for us to follow, waiting where the angels wait, beside the shining river. May we all hope to leave behind us as kindly remembrances, unalloyed save by sorrow and regret.

Address of Mr. HEWITT, of New York.

Mr. SPEAKER: I propose to enter into the career of Mr. DOWNDEY a little more at length, because of the three members he was the least known to his associates in the House, and his modesty had kept him from showing the sterling qualities of mind and heart which made up a manly and admirable character. To me personally he was unknown until after his election to Congress. At first I was disposed to wonder why a man of such quiet and reserved temper and habits should have been selected for a position which requires force, courage, and intellect; but as I came to know him better, I saw that he possessed a solid stratum of sound sense which could be relied upon in every emergency to lead him to a sound decision and to honest action. I think his peculiarities of character were largely due to the influence of a good mother to whom he was passionately attached, and for whom his love and respect increased to the last hour of his life.

ABRAHAM DOWDNEY was born in Youghal, in Ireland, the native place of his mother, in the year 1840. He was the son of an English sea captain, a man of some means and of great energy of character. His father's family had long lived at Topsham, in England, but his mother continued

after her marriage to reside in Ireland, where the family were born. When he had reached the age of eight years his father met with an injury at sea, which resulted in his death within two weeks after being landed at the nearest port in England. There were four children, of whom ABRAHAM was the eldest. They remained in England for several months, in order to settle up the modest estate of the father, but when this was accomplished Mrs. Dowdney returned to Ireland, where the family resided until ABRAHAM was thirteen years old. He passed the interval at school, where he seems to have been a diligent student, and to have shown not only great fondness for books but a general intelligence which made him a favorite with the officers of the garrison stationed at Youghal, so that they often made a companion of him in their little excursions, and doubtless gave him larger views of the world than he would otherwise have possessed. He lived in a romantic country, the home of the Desmonds, made famous by song and tradition, and filled with the scenes of many a hard-fought conflict. He had a taste for nature, and wandered among the hills at his own free will, developing that honest spirit which never deserted him through his subsequent career.

An illustration of his personal self-reliance is to be found in the fact that, having fallen from a tree and broken his arm, he went directly to the doctor and had it set and properly bound up, and then returned to his home, saying nothing to his mother as to what had happened, so that she first learned of the accident by the inquiries of others who knew how the boy must have suffered. At the age of twelve he calmly signified his intention of going to America to seek his fortune. His mother was quite willing to accommodate herself to his wishes, as she had a brother residing in New York, who was anxious that she should join him

with her little family, and especially with the bright and intelligent lad who had not only made himself beloved by his companions but had shown a spirit of self-reliance in action and in argument which gained the respect of those who were older than he was, and who foresaw the success of the career upon which he was about to enter with an honest soul, a clear head, and with hands ready to turn themselves to any work that might come for them to do.

His self-reliance was made manifest even in the embarkation of his family at Liverpool, so that the captain remarked that if he had been twenty years of age he could not have shown more judgment in the management of the troublesome work of getting the family and their possessions on board the ship. On the voyage over, owing to a careless accident, a fire broke out on board the ship, which our little emigrant was the first to discover and to give the alarm. When help ultimately came, he was found stamping "for all he was worth" on a piece of tarpaulin which he had thrown over the flames. The captain and the officers were immensely gratified, praised him highly, and told him that he was, as he had proved himself to be, a brave boy.

This event made such an impression that the officers, when they came to New York on subsequent voyages, were in the habit of calling on the family and of ascertaining how their little protégé was making his way in the world. He was soon apprenticed to a plumber, but after working at the trade for about a year he became dissatisfied and told his mother that he was tired and disgusted with the business. She immediately made arrangements for his release, and for several months he seemed to have passed the time in studying the city and in solidifying his constitution, which doubtless had been weakened by rapid growth, accounting for a spirit of lassitude which induced him to give up his trade.

Meanwhile he kept up his reading and employed his active mind in making inventions which may or may not have been of some value.

But the one conclusion at which he arrived was that if he had $300 in cash he could buy a house and lot in Harlem for his mother to live in. He got some employment in a lock factory in Brooklyn, but at last, with that tenacity of purpose which characterized him under all circumstances, he camly decided to complete his apprenticeship at plumbing, at the old shop and with the old master, because, as he said, he had not finished the contract which he had made. As soon as his time was out, at the early age of seventeen years, he opened a shop for himself and prospered so well that he was able in a short time to furnish a little home in which he installed his mother, so that once more the household was reunited.

At this time, just as his business may be said to have been firmly established, the civil war broke out and appealed to all the enthusiasm and patriotism of his manly nature. He proceeded to raise a company, and was chosen its captain at the age of twenty-one years. He gave two years of diligent and honorable service, when he felt that his duty to his mother and her family required him to return to New York and resume his business. In this he was successful, enlarging it very rapidly by transactions in real estate and in building, which brought him fame as well as profit. He was school trustee for four years, and for two years was chairman of the local board. In 1884 he was elected to Congress by an overwhelming majority, and thus we came to know him.

This is not the record of a very eventful life. In truth, hundreds of men of equal merit live and die without calling for any special eulogy. But there is enough in this life,

simple as it was, for the purpose which we have in view. It was indeed a manly life. He asked and received no favors from fortune. As a boy he early realized that there was work for him to do, and he prepared himself for it as well as he could. He saw that the world was full of opportunity. He did not ask for charity, which now often it is the fashion to miscall justice, but he sought for himself an opportunity for a display of the energy and the intellect and the ambition that fired his soul. He did not seek success by falsehood, by fraud, or by the betrayal of trusts. He did not think that the accumulated wealth of the world belonged to him, but he did think that its existence offered an opportunity for him to acquire his fair share of it by work and brains. It is curious to observe how easy it seems to have been for him to get the means of livelihood, and to pass from one stage of fortune to another until he had acquired enough for all his wants and of those who were dear to him.

To accomplish this end he did not think it necessary to cause others to refrain from working; but, instead of putting obstacles in the way of honest labor, he was diligent to search out and open for himself and others the pathways of industry so that labor might have its just reward. The equitable distribution of wealth came easy to him, because he recognized the primal law that man must gain his living by the sweat of his brow and that upon himself chiefly depends whether his labors shall be crowned with success or failure. Such a man is in the nature of things a thorough gentleman. He knows no meanness, he seeks no sharp advantage, he strives to help and not to hurt his neighbor, he gives freely of his substance for good works, and he never is in doubt whether a promise once given is to be kept, "for though he promise to his loss he keeps his promise good."

I was very much interested in this simple, straightfor-

ward, and manly soul. We parted in the House for the last time with a shake of the hand, during which I said to him, "DOWDNEY, you are a good friend and a true man." I can add no higher testimony now to the feeling in which I hold his memory, and I can only say, "Good-bye, good friend! You will never be forgotten by those who sounded the length and breadth and depth of your noble soul!"

Address of Mr. SCRANTON, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sudden death has its terrors for the living, but is merciful to its victims. Such was the mortal end of our associate, ABRAHAM DOWDNEY; stricken down in the prime of manhood, without warning, at the threshold of one of his family. The startling intelligence sent a shudder through this House on that chill morning early in December, for he had been with us only two days before apparently in robust health. But while his life work was cut off at the untimely age of forty-six years, its record is complete and admirable. The brave, honest, ambitious spirit of the Irish lad who landed on our shores at thirteen years of age developed into the successful business man, the patriotic and useful citizen, the honored Representative of the wealthiest constituency in the country.

ABRAHAM DOWDNEY was emphatically a self-made man, and in his great success, financially, socially, and politically, illustrated conspicuously the possibilities of achievement to the American citizen. As proud as is the distinction of American citizenship to-day, each succeeding decade will add to its luster. The English-speaking people are to rule the world, and before the next century completes its first half a majority of the English-speaking people on earth will be included in the population of the United States. As great

as are the possibilities of the present, as great as they have been in the past, they are to be greater for the American of the future. Whoever does not realize his ambition must look within himself for the controlling cause.

Mr. DOWDNEY gave to the land of his adoption his entire allegiance, and contributed more than one man's share to the prosperity of its industries and its material advancement. A widowed mother brought him here and carefully watched and trained his boyhood, placing him for several years in the public schools, subsequently apprenticing him to a trade. In his after life he was actively interested in educational matters, officially connected with the public schools of New York, and a patron of parochial schools. He early became master of his trade, was a large employer of workmen, and amassed great wealth.

The outbreak of the Rebellion found DOWDNEY at the age of twenty prosperously started in business. With warm patriotic purpose, common to Irish-American citizens, he abandoned trade and enlisted for the war, organizing a company of which he was elected captain. His noble spirit was manifested in the following lines to his sister on November 20, 1862, from the headquarters of his regiment at Fort Halleck:

> Banish all fear from your mind. Think I am absent engaged in the cause of that country and Government that made a man of me, and which I feel in duty bound to stand by in her need.

Mr. DOWDNEY was possessed of enlarged and liberal views, and had the courage to enforce his convictions. He was a man of affairs, of keen perception and excellent judgment. Eminently practical, always successful and influential, he was not charmed by the glamour of Congressional life, and early in his first session determined to leave it. He was of a retiring nature, and consequently well known

to but few of our membership. He was a good counselor and a wise legislator, representing an unobtrusive, experienced business element, of which it were better for the country were Congress more largely composed. My committee duties brought me into close personal relations with him, and I am gratified to bear testimony to his worth and purity of character. During our brief acquaintance I conceived a high regard for him, and in his death I mourn the loss of a valued friend.

The legacy of such a life is better than silver and gold; it may well be emulated, not only by the family of boys he has left, but by the youth of the land. It may encourage the toiler in every pursuit to deserve success and to win it.

His last rites were solemnized with all the circumstance of his church in the grand cathedral of his adopted city. We paused at his bier, while pleasant memories banished saddened thoughts, and then committed all that was mortal of ABRAHAM DOWDNEY to the silent tomb. There may it peacefully rest until the end of time.

We, too, will go over the river of rest,
As the strong and the lovely before us have gone;
Our sun will go down in the beautiful west,
To rise in the glory that circles the Throne.

Until then we are bound by our love and our faith
To the saints who are walking in Paradise fair;
They have passed beyond sight at the touching of Death,
But they live, like ourselves, in God's infinite care.

Address of Mr. ADAMS, of New York.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is befitting on an occasion like this, devoted to a commemoration of one of our dead colleagues, that those who knew him well should bear some testimony to his life and character.

It is not my purpose to pronounce any extended eulogy over ABRAHAM DOWDNEY, but, from a knowledge derived from the close social relations of years, to say a few simple words expressive of my love and respect for the man whose tried worth, whose genial character, whose warm heart and generous friendship endeared him to all who knew him living, and forces us out of honest truth to pay tribute to his memory when dead.

Born in Ireland in 1840, coming to this country at the age of thirteen, he was obliged, after a few years attendance at the public schools, to embark on his life's voyage.

It is to be remarked that, with but a scant education, with no social or financial backing, with nothing but the resources of a strong purpose and an honest heart, he quickly won among his equals both name and position.

Though attached to the land of his birth, from which an oppressive and tyrannical policy had driven him, he always displayed the keenest interest in all that affected the honor or welfare of his adopted country.

When the tocsin of war that he believed affected the perpetuity and integrity of his adopted country sounded, his ardent spirit led him to enlist in the cause of the Union and against slavery.

But twenty years old, he gave up a business but just established and organized Company C, of the One hundred and thirty-second New York Volunteers, and as captain of that company he served with distinction during a period of three years, thus adding another to that list of gallant men who demonstrated at that time that although of foreign birth he could still be a patriotic American citizen, and, if needs be, to prove his patriotism, willingly risk his life.

He gave many evidences of this during the war, but the tenor of his thought may be gleaned from a single letter

sent from the headquarters of his regiment at Fort Halleck to his sister on November 30, 1862:

> Banish all fear from your mind. Remember only that I am absent, engaged in the cause of that Government and country that has made a man of me, and in defense of which I feel in duty bound to stand in this her hour of need.

After an honorable discharge from the Army he left the scenes of blood and carnage and returned to the more peaceful and congenial pursuits of life.

As a contractor on a large scale, many of the largest public works in the city of New York bear testimony to his energy, skill, and success.

But not only did he achieve success as a contractor and builder, but as a man of rare financial ability; he made his mark as president of the Bull's Head Bank, which, after an unprecedented career of prosperity, became apparently hopelessly involved, and to extricate which institution from its troubles Mr. DOWDNEY was selected by the unanimous choice of directors and depositors.

He so managed its affairs as president that after an administration of two years he paid all depositors in full and netted to stockholders a fair proportion of their capital.

Untiring in his energy and desire to serve some good cause, he was scarcely free from his labors as bank president when he assumed the arduous duties of chairman of the board of trustees of the public schools of the Nineteenth ward, which position he held until his death.

Notwithstanding his large business interests, so impressed was he with the advantages of that education which his necessities had deprived him of, that without pay he devoted some of the best years of his life to reforming and elevating that system upon which so much of the honor and continued prosperity of our country depends.

All honor, then, to one who, amid the toils, the cares, and the excitements of a season of struggle, would rescue the golden hours of the youth around him from debasing pleasures and more debasing sloth, and enable them to set to the world in a great crisis of its moral condition the glorious example of intellectual courage and progress.

Such in brief was the public career of the Representative of the Twelfth Congressional district when he entered as a member of this House.

Is it to be wondered at that he was selected to represent one of the largest and by far the richest Congressional district of the United States?

Quiet and unobtrusive in his manner, with no ambition to shine as an orator, he came prepared to do his utmost in accomplishing whatever was demanded of him in promoting the glory and welfare of his country.

Though not well known by all the members, his record as a member of this House, as observed from his punctual presence at all sessions of the House and committees, is a splendid one.

And though this House lost a most valued member, what a tribulation his death has been to his family and friends! We from New York, who enjoyed the benefit of his sound judgment, his close social contact, and generous friendship, have indeed a sad duty to perform. Never shall we forget his memory.

His gentle bearing, his warm friendship, his genial smile, and noble heart have produced on all who knew him feelings and memories that will defy the march of time.

Fortunately his life and character need no commemoration of mine, for ABRAHAM DOWDNEY himself lived long enough to see both crowned with undisputed and unenvied honors.

His sad and sudden death brought to a close a successful life. To-day we bear tribute to the qualities of head and heart which, while living, made him a model husband, father, friend, and colleague, and which, now that he is dead, will cause us to sincerely mourn his loss and treasure his memory as we would the recollection of a beautiful dream.

The life has gone, the breath has fled,
And what has been no more shall be,
The well-known form, the welcome tread,
O where are they? And where is he?

Address of Mr. MULLER, of New York.

Mr. SPEAKER: The State of New York has experienced the misfortune of losing during the Forty-ninth Congress three of her Representatives—Lewis Beach, of Cornwall, John Arnot, jr., of Elmira, and ABRAHAM DOWDNEY, of New York City; and I come to join my voice with that of my delegation in this House, and of their associates generally from the several States, in the expression of our sorrow at the death of these three men, who by their high character and successful efforts during their lifetime had won the worthy renown of being good citizens and capable and faithful men in all the stations they were called to fill.

We have heard from their close and special friends how bravely and honestly and justly Mr. Beach and Mr. Arnot reached high positions of trust and confidence in their several Congressional districts, and with them I appreciate the State and nation will miss the sage counsel and patriotic efforts of those who have gone.

But my purpose is to address myself to the career and public services of ABRAHAM DOWDNEY, whom I was proud

to call my friend, and whose death was not only a public loss, but to me a personal one.

He was born in Ireland in 1840, but came early to America and cast his fortunes with so many hundreds of thousands of his countrymen in aiding to build up the prosperity of this free country. It gave him and them scope for the exercise of their ambition to get on in the world and make homes for themselves and families. He took advantage of his opportunities, and industriously pursued the way to independence, so far as pecuniary means are concerned, and in winning the respect and confidence of his neighbors and fellow-citizens.

His education was received at private schools, and, as we know, his calm, thoughtful, even-tempered mind turned it to the best advantage. He rose to be chairman of the public school trustees in his Congressional district for many years, and sought earnestly to spread the means and blessings of the most general diffusion of knowledge among the people.

He loved the fair and beautiful land which gave him birth, and his democracy took on a deeper and more earnest feeling when he remembered the cruel oppression under which it had unjustly suffered.

But, while he loved his native Ireland, his love for his adopted country and her free institutions was as true and far-reaching as that of her most devoted son. He was among the first to offer his services in her hour of distress and peril when war shook the foundations of our fair fabric of free government. He risked his life in her defense upon the battle-field, and no man could do more.

There is an old Spanish saying that a man is the child of his works. It is so plainly and palpably just that it must have come down from the earliest days when mankind labored and earned their bread by the sweat of their brows.

It was specially true of the career of Mr. DOWDNEY. He learned a trade and followed it till he had gained a competence. He lived honestly and justly before all men, and his advancement in public positions came rather as a demand from those who knew and appreciated his virtues than from any seeking on his part.

His devotion to the Catholic faith of his ancestors was stripped of every sectarian feeling of intolerance; it was genuinely universal, and it had the effect of softening and mellowing his whole nature and enriching his manner and address with a quietness and repose which were as beautiful and enduring as they were attractive.

He filled out his days in honor and good works. His loss to his family is irreparable. His State and the nation may have millions of men who are as good citizens and as ready to do and dare what is necessary for right and country, but never a one of them could boast a purer, gentler, braver, nobler heart and head than my dead colleague and associate, ABRAHAM DOWDNEY.

Peace to his ashes.

Address of Mr. MAHONEY, of New York.

Mr. SPEAKER: It would be very much against my desires were this occasion to pass without, at least, a word or two from me regarding the man whose life and character we are considering to-night. I had known him for many years, and had learned to admire his character as one full of sincerity, unaffected simplicity, determination of purpose, and honesty of intent, which could not fail to appeal to the appreciation of all with whom he was brought in contact. His kindness of heart was proverbial. Nothing pleased him

him more than to be able to perform a good act, and to do it in his own unassuming way, without noise or self-acclaim.

He took deep interest in the educational affairs of New York City, and by his painstaking and persistent attention to this subject did much to promote the educational facilities now enjoyed in the metropolis.

He was a man of intense conviction, and possessed a mind capable of dealing with greater questions in a broad and comprehensive sense. There was no smallness in his nature. In his business relations he was plain, direct, and scrupulously conscientious; while in the domestic circle he was loved and honored as a devoted husband and parent.

Here in Congress Mr. DOWDNEY was esteemed for his carefulness, his conservatism, and his attention to duty.

He was in every sense a manly character, beautiful in many of its attributes; always just, always frank and sincere, always kind and generous.

If the record of a life fragrant as this with worthy aspiration and good deeds and generous intent be claim to rest and happiness hereafter, then they are his forevermore.

Mr. TIMOTHY J. CAMPBELL. I now move the adoption of the pending resolutions.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted; and in accordance therewith the House adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
December 13, 1886.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. CLARK, its Clerk, conveyed to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. ABRAM DOWDNEY, late a Representative from the State of New York, and that the House had passed a concurrent resolution for the appointment of a select joint committee of seven members of the House of Representatives and three members of the Senate to attend the funeral of Mr. DOWDNEY, and that Mr. TIMOTHY J. CAMPBELL, Mr. VIELE, Mr. MERRIMAN, and Mr. MULLER of New York; Mr. O'NEILL, of Missouri; Mr. BRADY, of Virginia, and Mr. SCRANTON, of Pennsylvania, had been appointed the committee on the part of the House.

Mr. EVARTS. I call up the message from the House of Representatives relative to the death of a member of that body.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The Chair lays before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives.

The Chief Clerk read as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 10, 1886.

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound regret the announcement of the death of the Hon. ABRAM DOWDNEY, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That a select joint committee, consisting of seven members of the House and three members of the Senate, be appointed to attend the funeral, and the

necessary expenses attending the execution of this order be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for properly carrying out the provisions of this resolution.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate the foregoing resolutions to the Senate.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 11, 1886.

The SPEAKER announced the appointment of Mr. TIMOTHY J. CAMPBELL, Mr. VIELE, Mr. MERRIMAN, Mr. MULLER, Mr. O'NEILL of Missouri, Mr. BRADY, and Mr. SCRANTON the committee on the part of the House to attend the funeral of Hon. ABRAM DOWDNEY.

Mr. EVARTS. Mr. President, I offer resolutions, which I ask may be read.

The Chief Clerk read, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of the Hon. ABRAM DOWDNEY, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That the Senate concur in the resolution of the House of Representatives providing for the appointment of a joint committee to take order for attending the funeral of the deceased at his residence in the State of New York, and that the members of the committee on the part of the Senate be appointed by the President *pro tempore*.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

The resolutions were adopted unanimously.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore* appointed, in conformity to the above resolutions, the following Senators to attend the funeral: Messrs. MILLER, RANSOM, and VOORHEES.

Mr. EVARTS. Mr. President, I move, out of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative, that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; and the Senate adjourned.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

March 1, 1887.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message from the House of Representatives communicating the resolutions on the death of Hon. ABRAHAM DOWDNEY.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore* laid before the Senate the resolutions of the House of Representatives; which were read, as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

February 22, 1887.

Resolved, That in the death of the Hon. ABRAHAM DOWDNEY, late a Representative of the twelfth Congressional district of the State of New York, that district and State have ost an able, conscientious, and faithful servant, and the country a safe, intelligent, and prudent legislator and a public-spirited and patriotic citizen.

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House be directed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect the House, at the conclusion of these ceremonies, do adjourn.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate the foregoing resolutions to the Senate

Mr. MILLER. I send to the desk resolutions, which I ask may be read.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The resolutions submitted by the Senator from New York will be read.

The resolutions were read, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has received with profound sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. ABRAHAM DOWDNEY, late a member of the House of Representatives from the State of New York.

Resolved, That the sympathies of the members of the Senate be tendered to the family of Mr. DOWDNEY in their bereavement, and that the Secretary of the Senate transmit to them a copy of these resolutions.

Address of Mr. MILLER, of New York.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Mr. DOWDNEY a few weeks ago was apparently in perfect health. He left this city and returned to his home in New York City, where he was stricken down and died without a moment's warning. His life's work was not finished, but he had performed well his part in every station he had occupied. His early life had been one of severe toil and self-denial, but he had achieved material success, and had won the esteem and confidence of his people, who, recognizing his sterling qualities, promoted him to the councils of the nation.

Mr. DOWDNEY was born in Ireland in 1840, but decided while still a mere youth to seek to improve his condition by coming to America. When twelve years of age he landed in New York City, which he made his home. He learned the plumber's trade, and was successfully carrying on that business at the outbreak of the late war. He at once gave up his business, recruited a company, and went as its captain.

He showed his love for and his loyalty to the country of his choice by being among the first to take up arms in its defense. He realized fully the benefits he had derived from the institutions of the country by which he had been able to rise above the station to which he had been born. His gratitude was evinced by the offer of his life for its preservation.

It was a fact well known to all who took part in that struggle that the foreign-born soldiers were not surpassed in loyalty, in self-sacrificing devotion to the cause, or in manly courage by the native-born soldiers.

Mr. DOWDNEY returned from the war and began his business again anew, and by strict integrity and industry he amassed a liberal fortune. His neighbors, seeing his capac-

ity for affairs, pressed him into the public service, believing that he would guard their interests as faithfully as he had his own.

In this judgment they were not mistaken. He proved his executive capacity in affairs of local importance, and in his short term of service in the House of Representatives he impressed himself on all with whom he came in close relations as a man of sound common sense, wise in council, and sincerely devoted to the public welfare.

His death is a public misfortune, and an irreparable loss to his friends and family.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The question is on the adoption of the resolutions.

The resolutions were agreed to unanimously.

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